

Senate Hearing 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Sally Haines. I'm a retired University of Michigan social work librarian and a registered medical marijuana patient from Ann Arbor. I have never smoked anything and can't handle being high. I am grateful that you are considering lifting restrictions on the most medicinal plant in the world. I have personally benefited from oil extracts, salves, gels, edibles, and raw cannabis juice with no ill side effects.

The first time I experienced medical marijuana was when I had a vascular ulcer. I was told by my doctor that there was no cure except rest and elevation. Frightened because each day the hole in my leg got bigger, my husband made a poultice of cannabis leaves and hemp oil, and packed a new poultice into the wound every night. Each day the hole in my leg got smaller. After five days it was closed. My vascular specialist said it normally takes 3 months to 5 years to heal a vascular ulcer.

Is vascular ulcer a qualifying condition? No it is not. But growers and creators of topical salves and oils made from extracts, as well as those providing the bud for smoking, and leaves for edibles, poultices and juice, are just learning from their patients what strains and delivery systems work best for varying conditions.

I've had a total knee replacement, but normal range of motion was not achieved after two years of physical therapy and prescribed exercises 3 hours a day 5 days a week. I use cannabis butter cookies to sleep through the night and not to wake up with arthritic pain. But nothing relieved stiffness in connective tissues and joints that impeded my motion during the day.

Last September I could not safely mount and dismount a bicycle, which I had been able to do before. I couldn't walk down stairs normally. Then my husband acquired low THC, high CBD capsules available at our favorite dispensary. In three days I could not only safely mount and dismount my bike, but I biked for four hours on the Kal-Haven trail. And I could finally navigate stairs normally. Today I use raw cannabis juice instead of extracted oil in capsules.

Many Michiganders suffer from arthritis. The AMA was not consulted and was outraged when tincture of cannabis was banned for medical use. Millions of older people with arthritis and other chronic conditions need relief from inflammation, and they don't have to smoke anything if they don't want to.